

that Siders discloses this feature in steps 10-18 of Fig. 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

In particular, Fig. 1 of Siders discloses selecting a lens blank responsive to frame data. In other words, Siders discloses using frame data as a criterion for selecting a lens blank. This is different from determining an area of an edge shape on the lens blank, as required by claim 1. For example, determining an area of an edge shape on a lens blank is not part of the lens blank selecting process because the lens blank must already be selected before determining the area of the edge shape on the lens blank. If the lens blank is not selected prior to the determination of the area of the edge shape, there would no lens blank on which the area of the edge shape could be determined. Thus, Siders fails to disclose this feature.

Siders also fails to disclose "said lens member forming step forms a curved surface shape on the plastic material so that a geometric center of the edge shape positions at a geometric center of the plastic material," as recited in claim 1. The Office Action asserts that Siders discloses this feature in paragraphs [0122]-[0124] and Fig. 19. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

Siders discloses a point 238 on the lens blank 236 that will occupy the geometric center of the frame when the lens is finished (see Siders, paragraph [0122]). Siders further discloses that the point 238 on the lens blank 236 will end up in the geometric center of the lens blank 236 after edging (see Siders, paragraph [0122]). Thus, point 238 of Siders will occupy the geometric centers of both the frame and the lens blank 236 after both steps of machining a curve surface and edging have been performed. Siders is silent regarding any other point on lens blank 236 that may occupy the geometric center of both the lens blank 236 and the frame. In contrast, claim 1 requires that the lens member forming step (forming a curved surface in the lens) results in the positions of the geometric centers of the plastic material and the edge shape being the same. Thus, Siders fails to disclose this feature.

Siders also fails to disclose "the geometric center of the plastic material does not match an optical center of the spectacle lens," as recited in claim 1. The Office Action asserts that Siders discloses this feature in Figs. 13-19 and paragraph [0088]. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

In particular, Siders discloses placing reference marks on the lens blank for processing the lens blank (see Siders, paragraph [0088]). Siders further discloses that reference marks could be placed on the optical center of the lens blank (see Siders, paragraph [0088]). However, Siders fails to disclose a relationship between the optical center of the finished lens and the geometric center of the lens blank. Thus, Siders is silent regarding whether the geometric center of the lens blank is different from the optical center of the finished lens. Therefore, Siders fails to disclose this feature.

The Office Action also asserts that Siders discloses that it is well known in the art to center the block on the lens center in what is called "lens blank geometric center blocking." Although not explicitly stated, it appears that the Office Action is asserting that because Siders discloses lens blank geometric center blocking, Siders discloses "a geometric center of the edge shape positions at a geometric center of the plastic material," as recited in claim 1.

Siders discloses frame geometric center blocking, optical center blocking and lens blank geometric center blocking as examples of single point blocking systems (see Siders, paragraph [0011]). Siders further discloses that optical center blocking and lens blank geometric center blocking are optimal for generating lens back surfaces but are poor choices for edging (see Siders, paragraph [0012]). Accordingly, Siders fails to disclose that lens blank geometric center blocking is used for edging the lens of Siders. Moreover, Siders teaches away from using lens blank geometric center blocking for edging a lens. Thus, even if lens blank geometric center blocking were used to process the lens of Siders, the lens would not be edged to create an edge shape. Therefore, Siders would still fail to disclose "a

geometric center of the edge shape positions at a geometric center of the plastic material," as recited in claim 1.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

B. §103(a) Rejection

Miyazawa and Siders either alone or in combination fail to disclose each and every feature recited in claim 1. For example, Miyazawa and Siders either alone or in combination fail to disclose "wherein an area of the edge shape on a surface of the plastic material is determined prior to the step of forming the lens member and said lens member forming step forms a curved surface shape on the plastic material so that a geometric center of the edge shape positions at a geometric center of the plastic material," as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action agrees that Miyazawa fails to disclose this feature. However, the Office Action asserts that Siders remedies this deficiency. As discussed above regarding the §102(b) rejection over Siders, Siders also fails to disclose this feature. Therefore, Siders fails to remedy the deficiency of Miyazawa. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Miyazawa and Siders.

Claim 4 recites features similar to claim 1. Therefore, claim 4 is also patentable at least for reasons similar to those discussed above for claim 1 as well as for the additional features recited in claim 4.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 depend from claim 1. Therefore, those claims are also patentable at least for their dependence from claim 1 as well as for the additional features those claims recite.

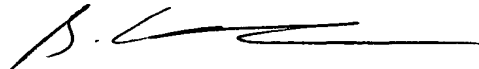
Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Brian K. Kauffman
Registration No. 63,199

JAO:BKK/mab

Date: December 11, 2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--